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**T**he State Transportation Board held the regularly scheduled monthly meetings in the Atlanta office on April 14 & 15. The Board approved lettings for 39 projects valued at \$97 million, including \$4 million for 3 ARRA projects. Several committees meetings were held and highlights are below. The Department is continuing to closely monitor all potential legislation that would affect it, especially any proposed bills that deal with funding issues.

#### **FINANCE:**

Advance construction conversions of \$63.3 million from prior year projects will be recognized as additional budget capacity upon completion of the FY2010 audit. Current fiscal year conversions have not begun because the Department has been operating under extensions.

The Treasurer also provided a review of the Department's FY10 Budget. Through March 31<sup>st</sup>, approximately \$1.2 billion is left for the remainder of FY10.

The amended FY2010 budget shows approximately \$7.65 million in savings was identified, but a final decision on the use of these funds will not be determined until the budget moves through Conference Committee at the Legislature.

Changes to the Department's FY2011 budget indicate a reduction of \$22 million in anticipated motor fuel to \$860 million and the addition of \$26 million in debt service to cover the Governor's proposed \$300 million bond package. This means another loss of \$48 million to GDOT's budget. The House version of the FY2011 budget restored about \$8.5 million of that loss by recognizing savings on variable rate bonds. The Senate version of the FY2011 budget is not out yet.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE:**

The Committee reviewed the latest edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). This manual is approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the National Standard in accordance with federal law. Georgia Code 32-6-50 (a) requires the Department to adopt the

MUTCD guidelines for use in setting all traffic control requirements for public roads in the state of Georgia.

The apparent awardee of the LOGO program procurement is Georgia Logos LLC, the company that currently administers the program. Contract negotiations are ongoing so exact terms cannot be disclosed at this time.

#### **PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (P3):**

The 30-day public comment period required to incorporate changes voted on by the Board on February 18<sup>th</sup> officially ended on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and no comments were received. The rule changes will be sent to the Secretary of State to be posted for 20-days prior to becoming the official rules.

Current P3 Project Updates:

***The West by Northwest Corridor*** project RFP is currently under development, and a shortlist of contenders will be announced on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

***The Multi-Modal Passenger Terminal (MMPT)*** has an advisory group of GDOT, MARTA, GRTA, ARC, City of Atlanta and Central Atlanta Progress that is meeting routinely to define needs of the project. A technical committee is also gathering requirements for the project to move forward. The procurement committee issued a draft RFQ/RFP for internal review on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

***Rest Area advertisement*** proposals are being developed. GDOT posted a Request for Information (RFI) from potential contractors on March 16<sup>th</sup> and received a number of positive responses with some innovative ideas. The next step is to issue a Letter of Intent to FHWA for concurrence.

The Board was informed that maintenance needs on the approximately 19,000 miles of federal and state roads in Georgia now total well more than \$1 billion; that the Department's budget crisis has caused the maintenance budget to be slashed by more than \$200 million a year; and that a failure to address these maintenance needs in the near future could result in eventual repairs that may be as much as 14 times as expensive.

- Litter removal has been significantly reduced so trash continues to build up along the shoulders and in the medians
- Routine mowing of Georgia's rights-of-way has been reduced to just once per year
- Conditions of both asphalt and concrete roads and bridges in the State are rapidly deteriorating
- Shoulders are severely eroded
- Guardrails across Georgia are damaged



#### **WORK ZONE SAFETY WEEK**

Motorists stopping at Georgia's Welcome/Visitors Centers statewide this week will find themselves surrounded by all things orange – from soft drinks to carrot sticks, cookies and candies to traffic cones and sample signage – designed to emphasize the importance of driving safely in highway construction work zones.

April 19-23 is Work Zone Safety Week across the nation and in Georgia the Department of Transportation is partnering with the Department of Economic Development, which staffs the Centers, to promote the safety campaign, tagged as "Go Orange!" GDOT held a special observance on Tuesday, April 20th honoring all 56 employees who have died in work accidents since 1973.

The 2010 theme is "Work Zones Deserve Our Undivided Attention."

***Next Board Meeting—May 20th, Atlanta, Georgia***